



Cashing in Through Car Care: Money Saving Ideas From AutoZone

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MEMPHIS, Tenn., Mar 4, 2002 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- In today's challenging economy, people are always looking for easy ways to save money. And for most people, a great opportunity to save money is sitting right in their driveway. That's right- it's their car.

A vehicle is one of the largest investments people make, and there are some easy things that you can do to protect that investment and reduce operating costs. AutoZone, the leading automotive retailer in the country, offers these simple tips to help vehicle owners save money:

- * Check your tires. Keep your tires properly inflated, and check them frequently. A properly inflated tire uses less fuel, lasts longer and is safer. A tire gauge is inexpensive and easy to use, and should be in every vehicle's glove box.
- * Make sure the air and fuel filters are clean. Filters are designed to be disposable; they protect your engine by removing harmful contaminants, but need to be replaced regularly to do their job. Dirty filters cut down engine performance and mileage, and can cause severe drivability problems.
- * Keep your engine in tune. Just because your engine runs doesn't mean it is running at its best. Replacing spark plugs, ignition wires and emissions components can save money in the long run. The oxygen sensor, in particular, is critical to keeping your vehicle running well, and is one of the most neglected components on a modern vehicle. Most manufacturers recommend that the oxygen sensor be replaced every 30,000 to 50,000 miles.
- * Don't use premium fuel if your car does not require it; your owner's manual will make it clear what fuel your vehicle needs. For most vehicles, using premium fuel is an unnecessary expense.
- * Don't idle your engine for long periods of time. Turn off your engine when you get out of your car or have to wait for a long time. The US Department of Energy estimates that for 145 million passenger vehicles idling five minutes per day, approximately four million gallons of gasoline are consumed without going anywhere.
- * Empty the trunk! Extra clothes, overdue library books, tools and the bundles of newspaper that you have been meaning to take to the recycler all weigh down your car unnecessarily. Each 100 pounds of needless weight will cost you up to one-half mile per gallon.
- * Get to know your owner's manual. Your manual is a great source for maintenance intervals and vehicle specific information that can help you keep your car running at its best.

AutoZone, founded in 1979, is the nation's leading retailer of automotive and light truck parts, chemicals and accessories. Headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee, AutoZone sells parts to do-it-yourself and professional mechanics through over 3,000 AutoZone stores nationwide in the U.S. and 23 AutoZone stores in Mexico. AutoZone also sells automotive diagnostic and repair software through ALLDATA, diagnostic and repair information through alldatadiy.com, and auto and light truck parts through AutoZone.com. AutoZone stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange and is included in the Standard & Poors 500 Index.

SOURCE AutoZone

CONTACT: Ray Pohlman of AutoZone, +1-901-495-7962